





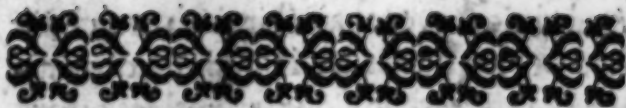
To the courteous Reader.



Hristian Reader;

There was this last yeare  
1621. in October last publi-  
shed a report of a wonderfull  
battell fought betwixt cer-  
taine birdes, called Stares,  
or Sterlings, at and neare a Cittie in Ireland called  
Corke, which was so strange and admirable an acci-  
dent, as the like hath very seldome or never bin heard of,  
or registred in any History in moderne or former ages.  
This report being so strange, was of some censured as an  
vntrue and idle invention; Of others, which vn-derstood,  
and by enquirie were resolved of the truth, it was ima-  
gined to prognosticate some strange and dreadfull acci-  
dent to follow, as warres, plagues or pestilence, with such  
like coniectures. Sithence which time, namely, this last  
of May 1622. the Omnipotent Maiestie of  
heaven hath not onely reprooved their vanitie, who  
would not belecue so strange a Relation, but hath fir-  
ther by a most dreadfull and lamentable demonstration

of his power and Iustice, resolved what that battell of Birds might or did prognosticate, wherein his Iustice in one respect may be feared, and his mercy by so exemplar a manifestation may be sought after in another. In what manner this battell of Birds was performed, is needless in this place to be repeated, because the relation is extant in Print, albeit, fitting for the Reader to know, because he shall thereby understand, how directly this dreadfull, and most terrible late Accident in Corke, was prognosticated in the clamorous and cruell fight of the Stares, at and neare vnto Corke, where the Stares began their fiery and furious fight at the East end of the Citie, there began the first originall of the ruine of Corke: And as the Birds proceeded in their fight, so did the Citie of Corke consume by fire from heaven, as it is more plainly delivered in the Relation following, to which I leave thee.



A  
RELATION  
OF THE MOST  
LAMENTABLE

Burning of the Cittie of *Corke* in  
the West of *Ireland*; in the Province  
of MONSTER, by Thunder  
and Lightning.



He Cittie of *Corke* hath  
his beginning vpon  
the side of an Hill,  
which discendeth ea-  
sily into one wide  
and long streete; The  
onely principall and  
chiefe streete of the Cittie. At the first en-  
trance there is a Castle, called *Shandon Castle*.  
And

And almost over against it, a Church built of Stone, as the Castle is a kinde of Marble, of which that Country yeeldeth store. The Cittie hath many houses built of the same stone, and covered with Slate. But the greatest number of houses are built with Tymber, or Mudde walles, and covered with Thatch.

This last of *May*, being the most pleasant and delightfull moneth of the yeare; To take his farewell, gaue it in the most ruefull and terrible manner, the like seldome heard of, or scene in any Country, or heard of in any Age, since the beginning of the World. The Citties of *Sodome* and *Gomorrhah* were not more suddainely, or more horribly consumed with fire from heaven, then this Cittie of *Corke* was this last of *May*: Albeit I compare this Cittie with *Sodome* and *Gomorrhah*, it is not in respect of the sinnes, but in respect of the heavy hand of God shewed in like degree. To consume by fire from Heaven eyther of them, the sinnes of *Sodome* are by the Scriptures made knowne, which are, and ever will be knowne, by the names of the sinnes of

*Sodome.*



*Sodome*. No question but this Cittie of *Corke* had her sinnes : Otherwise the hand of God had not falne so heavily vpon her, but they are not made so apparant as the sinnes of *Sodome*. But if *Vox Populi*, be *Vox Dei*, If the people of the Country adioyning round about them, may be taken for winesses, for sufficient prooffe of their sinnes, which might provoke the wrath of God vpon them : The Citizens, and Inhabitants of *Corke*, haue beene taxed and noted for *Vsury*, (the chiefest Daughter of Covetousnesse) to exceed any Cittie in the Kings Dominions, except some Citties in *England*, which as they are farre greater in quantitie, so I feare they doe as much exceed in qualittie of the same sinne. But of this more hereafter, when I shall haue passed over this lamentable Narration of *Corke*. This last of *May*, being Fryday, betwixt eleven and twelue of the Clocke, the Cloudes over the Cittie began to gather thicke, which caused such a darknes in their houses, that they were amazed to behold so sodaine a darkenes. These darke Cloudes seemed to Muster together, and

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to

to descend by degrees nearer to the Cittie. Whilest the Inhabitants stood thus wondering at the extraordinary darkenes, suddenly they heard a terrible clappe of thunder; And at the same instant they saw a dreadfull lightning, with flames of fire breake out of the Cloudes, and fall vpon the Cittie at the same instant, at the East end, and the highest part of the Cittie. At that very place where the Stares beganne their Battell, and where they first fell downe, being killed in the fight; There the fire first began with horrible flames: which the Inhabitants of the West and lower part of the Cittie beholding, they began hastily to run towards the East part where the fire began. They were not runne halfe the way, when as they heard a woefull cry of fire behinde them, for the West part was also set on fire. Betwixt two fires, being amazed and confounded, not knowing what to doe, the flames of fire raged also extreamely in the midst of the houses on both sides of the streete. Albeit, they had great abundance of water neare at hand, there was no  
means.



meanes to be had, nor any endeavour to be vsed to quench the flames. For the fire was so sodaine, the flames so hot, and raging, that there was no possibilitie to come neare them. For the fire which falleth from Heaven is vnquencheable, and rageth with that violent heate, as may not be endured. So that the Inhabitants seeing all their labours and indeuours to be spent in vaine, and many consumed which adventured too neare, to saue their goods, their wiues or children; then they resolute to saue themselves by running and flying out of the Citie into the fields, and to an Iland adioyning neare vnto the Citie. Some were saved by this meanes: But those who were in the Cittie were so enclosed vpon both sides with fire, that they were brought into miserable extremities. These had no other meanes to saue themselves, but to fly for refuge into the Churches. There were in this Cittie three Churches, all which were filled with people tormented with woe and terrour. For albeit they were in the Churches covered with Slate, and built other-

wise with thicke stone walles, yet this  
 was no securitie vnto them, when as they  
 had nothing to hope for, but a dreadfull  
 expectation every minute of an houre,  
 when the Churches would be fired also.  
 For they could not goe out of the Churches,  
 the fire raged so on all sides. And in the  
 Churches they heard nothing but clamors  
 and out-cries. Every mans feare was a torment,  
 not onely to himselfe, but to others  
 generally. For the houses round about the  
 Churches flaming, vpon every glimce of  
 fire, the cry was raysed, the Church is now  
 on fire; now we shall all be consumed.  
 This was the miserable and woefull case of  
 those who fled to the Churches. Now for  
 those who remained in the streets (as all  
 people whose weaknesse might not shifte  
 for themselues) or yong children, whose  
 want of discretion could not foresee how  
 to avoyd the danger; or such persons who  
 loued their wiues, children, & goods more  
 then themselues, many hundreds of these  
 people were consumed by the fire. Now  
 concerning those who to saue their liues  
 fled into the llands and fields adjoyning in  
 what

what a woefull and miserable affliction  
 were they? These were beholding their  
 Cittie in a lamentable Combustion. They  
 were turning their eyes this way and that  
 way, where sometimes their habitations  
 were: where they had goods, wiues, and  
 children, brothers and sisters, fathers and  
 mothers, cosens and friends; And all either  
 consumed, or in danger to be consumed  
 with fire. And to aggravate the bitterness  
 of their heauie afflictions more, they heard  
 out of the Cittie, hydeous and rufull cries  
 and clamors, which made them imagine  
 all were vtterly perished and consumed.  
 Thus what the battell and fight of the birds  
 did presage and prognosticate, fell out too  
 true and dolefull, in the vtter ruine & con-  
 sumption of a rich and wealthie Cittie.  
 Vpon this so grievous an accident, it is ab-  
 solutely necessary, that all the Citties and  
 Townes of *England* and *Ireland*, should make  
 speedie Vse of so dreadfull an example. For  
 they must consider, the Saviour of Man-  
 kinde in the xiiij. of *S. Luke*, when he was  
 told of the bloody execution of the *Galileans*  
 by *Herod*: Thinke you (sayth Iesus) that these  
*Galileans*

*Galileans* were sinners, more then all the *Galileans*, that they suffered such things? No, But I say to you, vnlesse you repent, you shall all likewise perish. As those *xviij.* vpon whom the Tower fell in *Siloe*, and slew them: Thinke you they were sinners aboue all the men that dwell in *Ierusalem*? No, I say to you, but except you repent, you shall all likewise perish. By this our Saviour doth make it manifest, that some sinners are punished for examples sake, that other who are guiltie of like sinnes, may by speedie Repentance pacifie the wrath of God, that he may spare his rod of Iustice. These inhabitants of the Cittie of *Corke*, were not the onely and greatest sinners, aboue all other Citties of *England* or *Ireland*, but that other Citties are as grievous sinners as they: But that God hath made an especiall example in them, that others may be moved to Repentance, thereby to escape the heauie Iudgements of God vpon them for the like sinnes. God is mercifull and long suffering, but if the offer of his mercy be not taken in due time, his Iustice falleth heauie where the offer of mercy is refused.

(9)

refused. The Battell of Birds over the Cir-  
tie being so strange and wonderfull an ac-  
cident, might haue moved them to confi-  
derations of Repentance, but they  
sleighted it over; And now they  
find (which others may feare)  
it is good to lay hold  
on Mercy whilst  
it is offered.

(. .)

**F I N I S**